GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2422
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
SCHEME FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government considers a village as an electrified village by providing one bulb connection or installing one electric pole there, whereas the entire village remains in darkness;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to change the present definition of rural electrification ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the target of cent percent rural electrification is likely to be achieved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a): The Government have changed the definition of village electrification in October, 1997. The earlier definition of village electrification was that `a village should be classified as electrified if electricity is being used within its revenue area for any purpose whatsoever`.

This definition was made at a time when the level of electrification in the country was very low and the aim was to extend the electricity infrastructure to the village level. The Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Power as well as the Committee on Public Undertakings in their meetings held in 1995 felt that the earlier concept of village electrification was limiting and inadequate and considered it necessary to have a re-lock at the earlier definition so as to bring at least the inhabited areas of villages into its fold. The issue was examined in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority and the State Electricity Boards and it was decided that the definition may be changed as follows:-

`A village will be deemed to be electrified if electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village, for any purpose whatsoever`.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal under the consideration of Government to change the present definition of rural electrification.

(e): Priorities for carrying our rural electrification programme in the States are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities concerned. As against 5,87,258 inhabited villages in the country as per 1991 census, 5,07,216 villages have been reported to be electrified by the end of September 2000. The time frame for complete electrification of villages in the country would largely depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating/strengthening distribution systems, and availability of power in the State.